

PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND PREGNANCY

WHEREAS, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and early pregnancy are serious threats to the current and future health and academic success of Michigan students, and

WHEREAS, forty-three percent of Michigan high school students reported they have had sexual intercourse,

WHEREAS, well-planned and implemented comprehensive school health education has been shown to positively influence students' health-related knowledge, skills, and behaviors and contributes to their academic achievement, and

WHEREAS, schools have a duty, in concert with families and communities, to implement effective sexuality education programs that will help students make responsible decisions during their school years and into their adult lives, and

WHEREAS, such research-based programs will help schools accomplish the teaching and learning goals of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and of *Michigan's Education YES! – A Yardstick for Excellent Schools*, and

WHEREAS, our nation's pluralistic society requires an educational system that provides education and supports programs that address the varied needs of highly diverse student populations in nondiscriminatory ways, and

WHEREAS, parents/guardians and families are the first and primary sexuality educators of their children thus education programs are more likely to be effective when they are consistent with what most parents want for their children and when parents, schools, and the broader community work together to provide consistent messages regarding healthy and responsible behavior; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan PTSA supports and endorses the State of Michigan State Board of Education *Policy To Promote Health and Prevent Disease and Pregnancy*, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Michigan PTSA will work to ensure the implementation of the State Board of Education *Policy To Promote Health and Prevent Disease and Pregnancy* at the local level, and be it further

RESOLVED, That such board policies will support effective sexuality programs which include:

- parent/community surveys to assess attitudes towards sexuality education and help determine what specific topics should be taught and when they

- should be introduced sexuality education program content be medically accurate and include current information with abstinence from risky sexual behavior stressed as the only certain way to avoid HIV, other STIs, and pregnancy
- sound programs of instruction that address human development, healthy relationships, communication skills, possible consequences of sexual risk behaviors, influence of alcohol and other drugs on decisions and sexuality within society and culture
 - instruction that emphasizes that students have the power to control personal behavior and should base their actions on accurate information, values, reasoning, a sense of responsibility, and respect for self and others
 - education programs that address the needs of all students: those who have abstained from sexual activity, those who have engaged in sexual activity but are currently abstaining, and those who are engaging in sexual activity, and those who will decide to engage in sexual activity in the future
 - programs that are age, developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate
 - use of multiple sources of data regarding student needs, knowledge, and behavior so that the program meets the prevention needs of all students, with due attention to those who might be at greater risk for HIV, other STIs, and pregnancy
 - best practice evidence that effective sexuality education program is conducted within the context of a broader Coordinated School Health Program; initiated early, before students reach the age when they may adopt risky behaviors, and reinforced throughout middle and high school; focus on the risk behaviors that are most likely to result in HIV infection, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy; and centered on a positive, healthy definition of sexual health rather than one that focuses only on avoiding negative outcomes
 - sufficient training and support for school staff
 - semi-annual meetings of the local advisory board to review program progress and make any necessary recommendations to the local school board.



Unanimously Approved: 2004
By the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association